

- a 5'-primer specifically hybridizing to a target sequence located at nucleotide position 210 to 260 of the protease gene; or
a 3'-primer specifically hybridizing to a target sequence located at nucleotide position 253 (codon 85) to 300 of the protease gene;
- c) at least one of the probes of [any of claims 1 to 3,] claim 1 possibly fixed to a solid support;
 - d) a hybridization buffer, or components necessary for producing said buffer;
 - e) a wash solution, or components necessary for producing said solution;
 - f) when appropriate, a means for detecting the hybrids resulting from the preceding hybridization;
 - g) when appropriate, a means for attaching said probe to a solid support.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to claim priority and add reference to an earlier filed PCT application as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2). In this amendment, claims 3-12 are amended to delete recitation of multiple dependency and clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1-12 are now pending. A clean set of the pending claims are attached hereto.

Please note that this §371 filing was filed without submission of the inventors' Declarations. To date we have not yet received a Notice of Missing Parts. Applicants request that a Notice of Missing Parts be provided soon.

It is believed that no fee is due. Should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 01-2508/11362.0030.PCUS00.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, applicants respectfully submit the claims are in proper form and condition for allowance. Applicants request that the claims be allowed and the application advanced to issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 787-1438 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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